Minutes: Official Meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate Executive Committee
October 8, 2014

GPSS Secretary Natalie Gordon
GPSS President Alice Popejoy
GPSS Vice President Alex Bolton
GPSS Treasurer Douglass Taber
SAO Adviser Rene Singleton
Executive Senator Yasmeen Hussain
Executive Senator Eddie Schwieterman
Executive Senator Evan Firth
Guest Kiehl Sundt, SAF Chair
Guest Elloise Kim, English Senator
Guest Joseph Telegen, English Senator
Guest Eli Camci, Budget Specialist

Call to order
meeting called to order at 5:36

Approval of agenda
Eddie: moved to approve the agenda
Yasmeen: seconded

Approval of minutes
Yasmeen: moved
Eddie: second

Introduction of Guests: Executive Senator candidates and questions for the committee
Alice: Introduction of guests who are not committee members, asked anyone who is not on the Executive Committee to please introduce themselves
Elloise Kim: English Senator, here as guest to see how the Executive Committee meetings work
Eli Camci: Budget Specialist, here to present on the spending report from Husky Sunrise
Alice: Entertain a motion to suspend the bylaws to amend the agenda so Eli can present this report
Eddie: moved
Doug: seconded
Alice: Entertain a motion to amend the agenda to include Eli
Evan: So moved for 10 minutes
Alex: seconded
Joseph Telegen: English, here to see the meeting and talk with people afterward about the ASUW meeting as liaison to their Senate
Kiehl: Student, SAF Chair, here to answer questions
Update from Eli
Eli: Our target spending was $15,000, we spent $16,800.
Alice: Asked if that included additional money to make up for people we didn’t anticipate attending
Eli: Answered yes the additional food expense was part of it but Bay Laurel didn’t charge us much extra for that.
Wine world vs. Bay Laurel was much better, it was about ⅓ of the price so we should continue to use Wine World.
Safeway was much better for orange juice although sometimes they are not as reliable because they could only fill some of our order.
Alice: We are never supposed to use safeway online again.
Doug: Officially we can use it but unofficially they left us waiting for an hour then brought the wrong order so Coop had to go to QFC and buy it so we will switch to Costco.
Eli: Bay Laurel does want to work with us on this in the future, they gave us a big cut on glassware, but in future we may need to use paper. Our savings was $1050 for only charging us for 50 extra plates. Unexpected omissions were security which Doug supplied which was quoted for $800, the scavenger hunt was never fulfilled so we didn't have to pay for that, the banner they screwed up this year, he said they would fix it for next year, but we need to make sure they remember and we remember. future cost cutting options include unnecessary repetitions.
Eli: Cutting bacon would save $1600 dollars so that is a big chunk of savings if we are ordering for 700 people in the future
Yasmeen: Asked what all the money went toward, because the budget shows small amounts here and there but the whole event was $15,000.
Alice: Answered it was for food.
Eli: More than half of it was food, almost $9000, then the tent, then printing.
Eli: Dawg Daze fliers were expensive and we ordered more in small volumes. For the venue we saved a lot just from reusing tables and chairs from the picnic and the tent savings were huge. In the future we need to figure out if we will get funding and how much from the Provost
Alice: We should also note that there was substantial generosity from the Office of Ceremonies and Sara Friggs. I did promise people that eventually this would become self sustaining, but I don't' think they will expect that of us this year.

Discussion of Executive Senator election process
Alice: The process for electing executive senators in the bylaws is vague and says the officers will nominate candidates and the Senate will confirm them, but we have been running them as more direct elections. Chris’s suggestion from last year was to edit the bylaws to reflect our operational process. Alice suggested outlining the process for deciding how this is going to happen with the understanding that our bylaws will be amended to approve the process we are now agreeing upon. She recommended we announce the seat opening and invite senators to come to exec and ask questions then we can announce who showed up then hold a democratic election.
Yasmeen: asked whether announcing who came is important or whether it makes it it feel like we are nominating people?
Eddie: Mentioned the current bylaws say we need to nominate, so we would nominate everyone who expressed interest to be candidates then open it up. Ideally maybe the process Alice outlined would be good, and showing who showed up might show the Senate who is serious.

Evan: Agreed it is a way to encourage people to come and show the Senate who followed through and is serious about it.

Yasmeen: Asked which of the guests is wanting to be an Executive Senator.

Elloise: Said she is considering running, so she is here to see what the committee does in meetings and learn about it.

Alice: Mentioned that Monica expressed interest.

Natalie: Durmus and Henry were interested in the summer.

Yasmeen: Asked about Seyda.

Natalie: Said she declined.

Alice: Questioned whether we should announce who was nominated over summer

Yasmeen: Said it seems fair to include them if we are talking about everyone who expressed interest.

Alex: Said we would prefer if there was a formal reaching out.

Eddie: Suggested that senators can always nominate themselves.

Alice: Mentioned that today at 12:30 she received an email addressed to Natalie asking if exec was meeting tonight from Henry.

Joseph: Said we announced the exec meeting at Senate, so people should know.

The committee discussed how the elections will be run and how the vote will be conducted. The committee considered OPMA requirements and GPSS voting procedures.

Alice: Recapped the discussion, she will announce all the nominees for exec senator, mention those who came to the exec meeting, take nominees from the floor, write nominees in alphabetical order on board, have people come up one on one to give a 2 minute speech and a 2 minute Q&A for each, and at the end the Senate will vote by ballot, have judicial tally and simple majority gets the seat.

Rene: Suggested applying for clickers in January to make the process easier, and that voting by ballot is acceptable as long as we keep the ballots to show anyone who requests to see the vote.

**GPSS Senate Meeting Agenda for 10/15**

Yasmeen: Asked how long we will need for elections.

Evan: Said if there will be 5 minutes per person for talking, if we have 5 people that is 25 minutes, plus 5 minutes for introductions, to do the ballots might take 5 minutes.

Alex: Said think we can move on to business while Judicial is counting ballots.

Elloise: Mentioned that last time, it took half an hour and people were counting while we moved on.

Rene: Clarified that we only give ballots to actual senators.

Natalie: Last year we stuck them in name tags.
Alice: Suggested 30 minutes for elections, then 5 minutes at the end for results. Asked if we want elections after the Spotlight.
Rene: Suggested doing the spotlight while we are tallying ballots.
Alice: Agreed, since the spotlight speaker also expressed interest in exec, so it would not be fair for her to speak then have elections. Asked who our spotlight is.
Natalie: Monica Cortes Viharo.
Alice: Put Natalie on agenda for the spotlight. Suggested the next thing we should do is committees as another energizing session to break up the meeting. Mentioned that last year we had chairs stand up ad hoc to introduce committees.
Yasmeen: Suggested we make signs with committee names.
Evan: Agreed signs around the room with one or two people managing each area with a big sign-up chart would be helpful.
Alice: Mentioned it would be good for everyone to get an overview about what each committee does, suggested that officers give one slide of the committees they run.
Rene: Asked how many committees we have.
Natalie: 13 ish.
Alice: Suggested we think about which committees we actually want to present, because some haven't been filled.
Doug: Asked about the open house, mentioned that last year there was an open house where people could come and sign up for committees.
Alice: said we can still do that

The committee discussed how to do committee recruitment at the Senate meeting.

Yasmeen: summarized that the officers will present the committees they have, then the last years members who are informed in advance will stand up and say a few words about the committee, then we will split up and visit each committee. Signs will be posted around the room for each committee.

Alice: suggested 15 minutes for committee kickoff.
Rene: Asked which committees we don’t need so we can get rid of them.

Alice: said academic and administrative affairs.
Yasmeen: suggested that committee might be useful
Rene: suggested figuring it out later
Doug: said we aren’t destroying these, we just are not actively recruiting
Yasmeen: said by not inviting people to be on them we are essentially destroying them.
Rene: suggested the committee postpone it because if we try to do something we aren’t ready for we get in trouble.
Alice: gave the example of graduate program reviews, when they are happening she can come to the senate and say we are doing reviews who wants to be involved
Evan: shared that the experience of being on a sitting duck committee, is not a good experience so he recommends not having those.
Eddie: said there has been committee reform every single year since he’s been a senator, and so maybe we should take this as an opportunity to learn from past mistakes and trim instead of expand, but trim in a way that is responsible and won’t lead to us having to reform things in order to add things back later that we need.
Rene: recommended that we have this discussion in winter quarter and never make another committee while we are exiting.
Eddie: asked what if we replace them with one?
Alex: said that’s assuming they should exist in the first place
Alice: said she understands why those committees exist, but thinks they were created because past presidents needed help, but it doesn’t work. Alice talked about how GPSS internalized some of these to be staff positions so we are more efficient internally and can reshape what committees do.
Eddie: suggested that having staff working on this is superior for getting things done but that the motivation for what senate does should be coming from the senate so if a staff member does everything every committee did maybe that would mean the senate is this office and not the senators. Eddie said this may be a reason to think about consolidating committees instead of eliminating all of them.
Yasmeen: asked which committees we want to recruit for
Doug: suggested science and policy, finance and budget, and travel grants
Alice: said the most important thing is the graduate student experience, and the Graduate School is in an active search right now for a new position for a director of the graduate student experience. She suggested making a graduate student experience committee under the president.
Alex: said State and Federal Legislative committees
Natalie: said Diversity and the committee for events
Rene: said that if an officer is directing the committees it is fine, but when senators were trying to do things themselves there was lots of discontent in the past.
Doug: said he would be happy to head an events committee
Yasmeen: asked if we can just rename committees
Evan: agreed
Alice: suggested that we can recruit under new names and if someone asks a question we can say we are in the process for repurposing and renaming in the bylaws to fit with what we are currently doing.
Yasmeen: said we can’t actually recruit for committees that don’t exist
Evan: suggested we are just recruiting interest, then it will be made official later.
Alice: said the bylaws still need to be changed and include judicial committee needs to be included, but for now we need to accept that we will function the way we are going to function and change the bylaws as soon as possible to reflect that.
Rene: said we are trying to operate under what past administrations have thought they needed, and she recommends making things flexible to give the next Exec the flexibility to change with the times.
Joseph: asked what judiciary can do to help expedite the process
Evan: suggested looking at the bylaws and identifying parts that could be trimmed
Alice: proposed scheduling a committee meeting where Yasmeen and Alice will come and present, then judicial can review and judicial can present a resolution to present the new bylaws.

Evan: suggested we have the events committee under communications and outreach, the graduate student experience committee under the auspices of the current student life committee, then we can rename and repurpose later on.

Alice: said now we have 8 committees for which we are recruiting. Alice summarizes that the agenda so far is executive senator election for 15 minutes, spotlight to make it 40, and committee kickoff. Asked Joseph to get judicial to meet and choose a chair to get things going.

Evan: added officer reports to the agenda.

Alice: added university committee updates. Alica also said she has a bunch of things for the presidential update that you all may think should go into the senate meeting. She got clarification about Peacehealth from Dean Ramsey that it is not a merger and there is no governing overlap. He said placement in a religious hospital is only part of students’ training and it is important for them to get culturally diverse experiences and they need to know how to manage the administrative scene. Alice will pass around a letter that Dean Ramsey sent to members of the clergy.

Elloise: said that will get lots of questions from the senate.

Evan: suggested not in this meeting, because we don’t have time.

Alex: said it needs to be a major update though.

Evan: suggested mentioning that there is a lot to come and there will be a full briefing next meeting.

Yasmeen: suggested presenting it as a 10 minute update then set aside another time to discuss it with people.

Evan: suggested that Alice mention it in the meeting then senators can go back to their constituents and refine their questions for the next meeting.

Eddie: said the resolution intended that the president keep the senate apprised of what is going on, but answering all questions isn’t something he thinks we should spend a lot of time on. He suggested that giving the information Alice has is sufficient.

Alice: said there is another UW med update, and that is the official memo of understanding on the divorce decision between the UW and the WSU WWAMI program. Alice explained we have been partnering with WSU for 30 years on educating all doctors and medical people in all those states and that WSU has decided that they want their own med school and we were all unable to reach an agreement. We are asking the governor for money to extend medical training in Spokane.

Alice: confirmed UW med updates, 10 minutes for the agenda.

Yasmeen: added a quick amendment, that this is an action.

Alice: asked if there is anything else pressing for this meeting.

Yameen: moved to postpone the executive session and staff allocation discussion to after executive senator reports so guests can see what we do.

Natalie: second

Yasmeen: moved to approve the Senate agenda.

Eddie: second.
Executive Senator Reports
Yasmeen: Shared feedback from students about the new Burke building. Out of 5 responses all were in vehement approval of the building and think it is great. Yasmeen thanked committee members for their feedback on the smoking site survey and asked if anyone else was wanting to look it over.
Alice and Evan said they are planning on looking at it.
Yasmeen: Asked for feedback by Monday. Yasmeen also asked if we can make a GPSS record of the OPMA trainings instead printing our own certificates.
Natalie: Said she will collect them
Yasmeen: Said she won’t be at the next Senate meeting

Evan: said he got contacted by an email about how sometimes when you are going to get health care you will get denied. GAIP specifically stressed to go get medical treatment anyway and they will give reimbursements. They are asking anyone who is having this issue to contact them and they will try to fix it as soon as possible. Evan suggested that we should spread the word to our constituents.
Alice: said we do have a student appointed to the International Student Health Committee and our liaison to the University Student Insurance Issues in active communication with UAW working on the GAIP issue.
Evan: said he wanted to make sure our constituents know what is happening.
Alex: suggested that we might want to push on the wait time at hall health also.
Yasmeen: said she contacted them about that, and they are willing to listen but essentially said it is not going to change.
Yasmeen: said she thought it was awesome at the last Senate meeting how many people had announcements.
Eddie: said he did the OPMA training and saved the certificate. He also mentioned that in terms of health insurance there is a UAW membership meeting on October 29th at 4:30 that might be a good place for grad students to voice concerns to the union. He said there is going to be a more broad discussion on GAIP and a collective bargaining agreement. He suggested we should make clear that they are related but separate issues but also make everyone aware that it is happening and they should get involved now.
Yasmeen: asked if Eddie can announce that at the meeting eddie: agreed
Elloise: said it was helpful how Natalie sent out the announcements email, because in the past senators haven’t received that.
Natalie: explained according to OPMA we do not need to take verbatim minutes. She showed how ASUW does their minutes, as more of a summary of proceedings than what everyone says word for word.
Alex: said Faculty Senate does that too, and it is easier to process what is concluded.
Yasmeen: said it would be nice to have meetings recorded but that makes sense according to OPMA.
Eddie: said OPMA says there is no form they have to take they just ah to take the actions.
Natalie: said doing it this way would also free up Cynthia’s time.
Officer Reports
Alex: The Federal Committee is up and running and will start having quarterly meetings so He has been having a lot of interesting meetings about the future of Medical Education in Spokane and ways we can work with the business committee. He is heading to Pullman this weekend for the WSA meeting and gearing up for SAGE.
Evan: asked who our SAGE delegates are
Alex: Kiana Scott and Chrissie Elles
Doug: There is a lot of interest in Finance and Budget and Travel Grant Committees. He is going to miss the Senate meeting the Wednesday after Thanksgiving. Doug and his staff reworked the Travel Grants process to make it easier for the committee to track everything, he is also working with Simplicity to get RSO funds on the web.
Alex: Added that there was an Open Spaces forum last night, they were trying to facilitate a long term vision of what to do with open spaces in the u-district.
Natalie: Talked about meeting with GOMAP and Tiffany our representative for Disability Affairs. She has been working with staff on planning the Fall Social, and working with Sri Harsha on website updates.
Alice: Talked about meeting with deans, talked about unpaid internships issue in a meeting with the dean of Social Work, they would like us to talk to them before we start working with groups on this, so there will be a role for GPSS in this issue. She also mentioned the School of Public Health Genetics program disappearing because in the midst of restructuring, 10 out of 11 faculty have resigned, so the dean has decided to extend ABB down to the program level. Dean Sullivan talked about a fee based program that actually makes sense where they have a pharmaceutical policy certificate targeted at people outside the university that is available online, it created 6 ta positions, they provide scholarships and expertise to members of the community who want it, and they are funding their PhD positions that way. The Graduate School wants to come up with fun t shirts, Alice advocated for graduate student input. Committee appointments are going really well, we have more than enough applicants for PACS, the first meeting is on the 17th. This year may be the first year where we will have all of our committee positions filled. The other big one is the housing master plan. They are going to tear down north campus buildings and build huge fancy buildings, and they are going to tear down Denney field which is from the 1800s and revamp this whole area of campus. Faculty and grad students have been unsuccessfully advocating for a childcare facility but HFS says it doesn’t really fit their vision. Alice told them 1 in 4 students is a grad student and it is a big issue but we both agree they need more student input in this. The undergrads are having a fight about affordability and we are having a fight about the childcare facility. They said they needed to hear from the Provost, so Ana Marie reached out to them supporting the idea. Tomorrow is the Board of Regents meeting, it should be a very lively discussion because HFS is presenting their plan. The Student Parent Resource Center estimates that there are about 4000 student parents on campus, ⅔ of whom are graduate students.

Alice: Announced beginning of executive session, asked guests to leave.

(executive session Start: 7:37 pm. End: 7:48)
Alice: Entertained a motion to raise pay of staff to maximum ranges
Evan: So moved according to last year's budget
Eddie: second

**Announcements**
none

**Adjourn**
adjourned at 7:49 pm